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THE
DUBLIN PENNY JOURNAL

CONDUCTED BY P. DIXON HARDY, M.R.I.A.

Vol. III.

JULY, 12, 1834.

No. 106.



Sketched by Mr. E. Heyden.

Engraved by R. Clayton.

MONKSTOWN CHURCH.

The parish of Monkstown at present occupies rather a conspicuous position, owing to the smart little town which has sprung up within the course of a few years, in consequence of the elegant and extensive harbour recently erected there.

The ruins of the old Church of Monkstown stand between the new Church and the Castle, in a neat churchyard, and form rather a picturesque object.

It is difficult to fix on the order of architecture of the present gorgeous edifice, it is *sui generis*; outside it looks somewhat of a mule between the Gothic and Saracenic: the steeple is surmounted by a cross, but the minarets have something of the crescent, though on the whole it has not an unpleasing effect. The interior is of the oddest *fancy*, we will not call it *taste*.—It is of plaster made to represent immense blocks of granite, and even the *galleries*!! are of the same character, to keep the congregation in awe, we suppose. Immense blocks are represented ready to tumble on their heads, and crush them to atoms. Were they really granite, no earthly power could prevent the attraction of gravity from pulling them from their places. Perhaps the architect, as the whole inside is in the Arabesque style, wished, by the position of these ponderous blocks, to give the idea of the Prophet's tomb suspended in the air. Altogether, we never saw a greater perversion of judgment and taste, than is displayed throughout the entire building. Many other equally preposterous defects will at once strike an attentive observer—there is not a spot in the church where the eye can rest without pain. From the cross-lights behind the pulpit, *where there should be no light*, is a large window of three divisions, so that it is impossible

to see the preacher; and under, and in the recess of the same window, the space is occupied by a curious sort of falling roof, somewhat like the top of a cow-shed, with battlements in the front!

Scattered over the manor of Dalkey, are many old buildings, entitled *castles*, which certainly partook of that character, but, at the same time, were merely so many defensive depots for the merchandize of the city of Dublin in former times, which was embarked in Dalky Sound, where the vessels lay, in consequence of the shallowness and difficulty of the navigation of the Liffey. There are many entries on the Pipe Rolls, of the embarkation of wine and provisions at Dalkey, to be sent to the army of Edward the First in Scotland.

The walls and towers of the little fortified town of Bullock still remain, an interesting exhibition of the puny efforts of former times.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DUBLIN PENNY JOURNAL.

SIR—The rule for finding the length of the day is by doubling the sunsetting; and the length of the night by doubling the sunrising, and add both together, which, if right, make exactly twenty-four hours. Now the first day of February, by the above rule, amounts to twenty-four hours fifty-six minutes, being an excess of fifty-six minutes. Look into any almanack published prior to 1831, and you find that in no case whatsoever do they exceed twenty-four hours. As your Journal will be read by many scientific men, I hope some of them will be able to elucidate this strange phenomenon, if I may call it so.

Millford.

J. A.